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SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Dr. D. KIRKWOOD, the Dean of American astronomers, who is now in his 78th year, paid a short visit to the Lick Observatory in May, after the completion of his course of astronomical lectures at the Stanford University at Palo Alto.

A GLIMPSE OF KEPLER.

In the year 1623 Duke FERDINAND V GONZAGA wishing to give more renown to his little University of Mantua determined to seek for the most celebrated man of Austria to become the Professor of Mathematics. Accordingly he addressed a note to ZUCCONI, his minister-resident at Vienna, to instruct him to find the savant who was wanted. The reply of ZUCCONI is interesting as throwing a light on the state of learning in Vienna at that time and especially as giving us a glimpse of the great KEPLER. ZUCCONI answered the Duke that he would do his best to find the mathematician in question, but that the Duke must recollect that such matters were not of the least interest to the Viennese: "*in questa città si attende a ogni altra cosa*"! And, moreover, the only man he could think of was one KEPLER, of Linz, who was reputed to be the first mathematician of Germany; but as in the first place, he was a heretic, and as in the second, he was disposed to remain comfortably at home—"per star comodissimamente in casa sua"—the arrangement was utterly impracticable. —*Geschichte der Wiener Journalistik*, von E. V. ZEUKER, noticed in *Revue des Deux Mondes*, vol. 110, p. 699.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TELESCOPE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF
MISSISSIPPI.

Sir HOWARD GRUBB, F. R. S., is engaged in making a pair of large equatorials for the University of Mississippi, which will be mounted side by side. The visual telescope will have an aperture of 15 inches and the photographic an aperture of 9 inches.

E. S. H.

THE NUMBER OF STARS SHOWN ON SOME STELLAR PHOTO-
GRAPHS [BY DR. MAX WOLF, OF HEIDELBERG].

In the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, no. 3091, Dr. WOLF gives some interesting statistics of counts which he has made on three